DC #17

DIRECT CURRENTS

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JUNE

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one-shot
and more . . .

PLUS...
an interview with Jerry Ordway

Cover Of The Month
ANIMAL MAN #14

BATMAN...SEE THE MOVIE... READ THE ADAPTATION

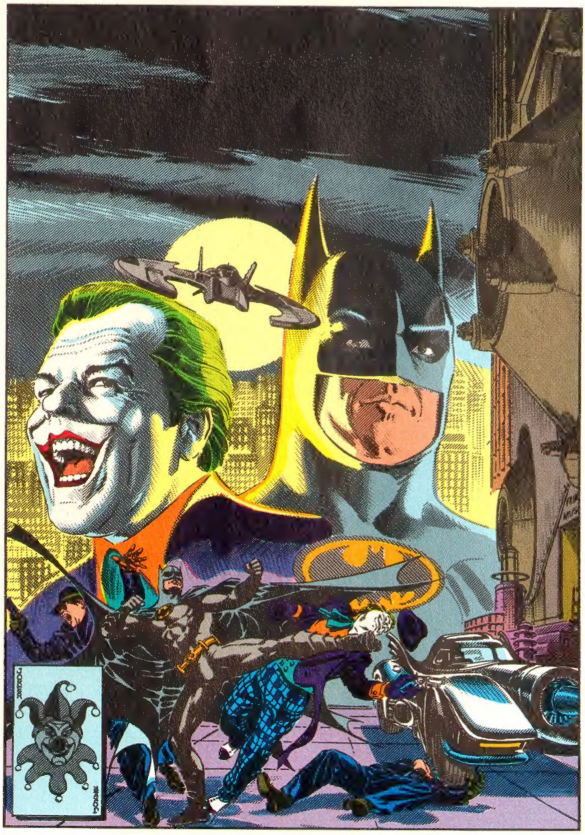
From the dark alleyways of the crime-ridden streets to the towering heights of Gotham City's Cathedral, THE BATMAN confronts his deadliest foe, the Joker, in perhaps the most eagerly awaited movie event of the decade: "Batman." The hottest film of 1989 is scheduled to open in 2000 theaters nationwide on June 23. Simultaneously with the film release, we will bring you **THE BATMAN MOVIE ADAPTATION**, the official comic book adaptation of the film. The comic book depicts stars Jack Nicholson (The Joker), Michael Keaton (Batman), and Kim Basinger (Vicki Vale) in the adventure story of the Darknight Detective's first encounter with the Clown Prince of Crime.

BATMAN editor Dennis O'Neil has written the comic book adapation, based on the "Batman" film script by DETECTIVE COMICS writer and screenwriter Sam Hamm. Jerry Ordway illustrates the book, which will be available in two formats. A deluxe Prestige Format edition sports a painted cover by Ordway; glossy paper; square-binding; and computer color separations by Steve Oliff. The standard edition carries a line-art cover (pictured here) and is staple-bound. The one-shot adaptation runs 64 pages.

See the Warner Bros. "Batman" movie, directed by Tim Burton and produced by Jon Peters and Peter Guber.

Read THE BATMAN MOVIE ADAPTATION.

They're two experiences you won't soon forget.



THE BATMAN...CONTINUED

We've already told you about THE BATMAN MOVIE ADAPTATION, but there's a lot more going on this month in the life of the Darknight Detective.

For one thing, DC is presenting the best-selling **GREATEST BATMAN STORIES EVER TOLD** in a new trade paperback edition. THE GREATEST BATMAN STORIES EVER TOLD is a 360-page blockbuster featuring twenty-six classics by Neal Adams, Jim Aparo, Steve Englehart, Bill Finger, Dick Giordano, Michael Golden, Archie Goodwin, Bob Kane, Dennis O'Neil, Marshall Rogers, Walter Simonson, Dick Sprang, and others.

THE GREATEST BATMAN STORIES EVER TOLD Trade Paperback Edition also features an all-new cover by Walter Simonson.

And for another thing, THE BATMAN'S own regular title will be published *twice* monthly for the four-issue duration of the long-awaited mini-series-within-a-series, BATMAN: YEAR THREE, in **BATMAN** #436–#439. The saga of the Caped Crusader's early years continues as he meets up with young Dick Grayson and takes him into his life as Robin.

BATMAN: YEAR THREE is written by Marv Wolfman and features art by Pat Broderick and John Beatty. George Pérez contributes the covers.

It's another busy month for THE BATMAN. Keep up with him . . . if you can.

FROM • THE EDITOR

There's so much news this month, we don't have enough room to include a letter. I *do* read every letter that comes in, though, so please keep writing.

In addition to the exciting material from DC Comics this month, there is the debut of a new DC Comics imprint: Piranha Press. The first book from Piranha will be available soon after you read this. (And if you don't read DIRECT CURRENTS the week it comes out, then the first Piranha book is already out as you read this.) Ask for the free Piranha flyer that comes with this issue of DIRECT CURRENTS. It'll tell you all about the Piranha books you'll be seeing in your comics shop over the next weeks and months. I know *I'm* looking forward to seeing the first books in this innovative new DC Comics imprint.

See ya,

Peggy

EL DIABLO RIDES AGAIN

Dos Rios, Texas, isn't about to win any awards as the garden spot of the nation. Its streets are a dangerous place to be any time of day. It's a city awash with corruption and drowning in its own poverty.

But there *is* one man who wants to help.

EL DIABLO.

He's Rafael Sandoval, and as a member of the Dos Rios City Council, he's tried to make a difference, to get the government working for the people. But further steps must be taken, and since desperate times call for desperate measures, the first of those steps is donning the costume of EL DIABLO, the masked avenger of the city's weak and threatened populace.

The 48-page special first issue of EL DIABLO, an ongoing series in the New Format, is written by Gerard Jones, and features art by Mike Parobeck and John Nyberg.

Welcome to the world of EL DIABLO.

Not a pretty sight, is it?

Paul Kupperberg, Writer
Peggy May, Editor
Veronica Carlin, Designer

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Printed in Canada

HAWKMAN...THE HERO REBORN IN *HAWKWORLD*

Thanagar is really two worlds.

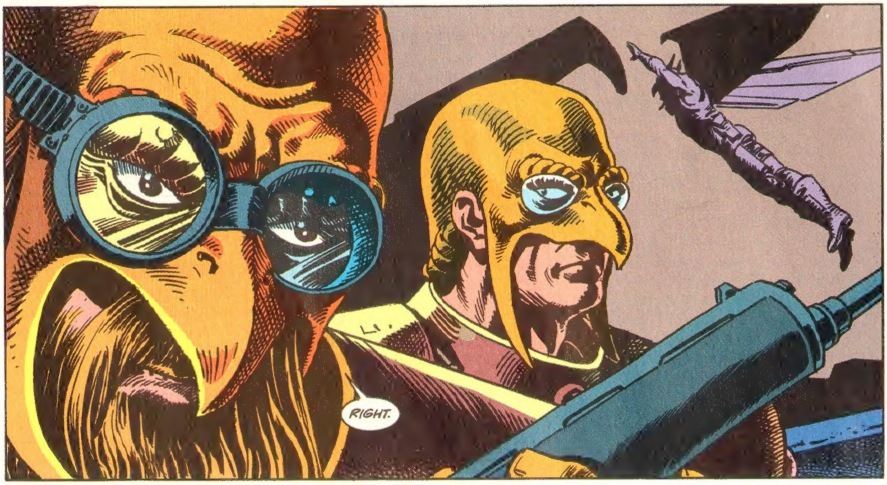
There's the world of the Towers, where the native born rulers of the conqueror world live in opulent decadence.

Then there's the Downside, where millions of cast-off aliens live lives of desperate poverty and fear of the Wingmen, the winged police of the ruling class. Among them is Ensign Katar Hol, son of the world's most respected scholar and statesman, collector of Thanagarian artifacts . . . and the man destined to one day become . . . Hawkman.

But before that day comes, the native police officer will have to uncover the harsh realities of Thanagar. A world of racism, drugs, cold existence. A civilization that has enslaved other worlds and other races. A people who have forgotten and abandoned their legends.

The story is told in **HAWKWORLD**, a three-book Prestige Format mini-series, written and pencilled by Timothy Truman, inked by Alcatena, and painted by Sam Parsons. The series' painted covers are by Truman.

HAWKWORLD, where life can be heaven . . . but it's more likely to be hell.



BITS & PIECES

A few more events of note this month include space, the spirit, and super-heroes.

From deep space comes the official **STAR TREK V MOVIE ADAPTATION**. The *Enterprise* is commandeered by Spock's half-brother, a charismatic Vulcan who needs the Starship and its crew to go to the center of the universe in search of a higher being. The STAR TREK V MOVIE ADAPTATION is written by Peter David, with art by James W. Fry and Arne Starr. The voyage continues.

From the realm of the spirit is **GREEN ARROW: BLOOD OF THE DRAGON**, a four-issue mini-series-within-a-series, and an event that takes GREEN ARROW bi-weekly for issues #21–#24. Shado's infant child has been kidnapped by the Yakuza and is being held hostage to force her to do their bidding. GREEN ARROW: BLOOD OF THE DRAGON is written by Mike Grell, with art by Dan Jurgens, Dick Giordano, and Frank McLaughlin. GREEN ARROW is labelled "Suggested for Mature Readers."

And there are, of course, the super-heroes, starting with a whole team of them in **THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #63**. The saga of the four-part "Magic Wars," written by Paul Levitz, with art by Keith Giffen and Mike DeCarlo, comes to its stunning conclusion, as does this particular run of the LEGION'S book. But don't panic, because an all-new version of the LEGION will make its debut in two months. Watch for it.

And, last but not least, is news of the greatest super-hero of them all, SUPERMAN, as his trio of titles settle into their new creative teams. Jerry Ordway takes over as writer beginning with **SUPERMAN #34**, joining penciller Kerry Gammill and inker Dennis Janke. (Ordway will return to illustrations soon. Watch DIRECT CURRENTS for details.) Over in **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #457**, George Pérez joins artists Dan Jurgens and Janke as he comes on board as the title's regular scripter. And Roger Stern does those same honors in the pages of **ACTION COMICS #644**, where he also contributes the pencils, while Brett Breeding handles the inks.

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JUNE

ACTION COMICS #643
Superman's come home, making his triumphant return to Earth (and as solo star of Action Comics) just in time to save Metropolis from the deadly struggle among Luthor, Morgan Edge, and Intergang for control over the city. Written and pencilled by George Pérez, with inks by Brett Breeding. Cover by Pérez. $.75

ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™ #8
Myrrth's tale concludes, complete with its share of jesters, jokes . . . and a punchline that will *kill* you. Written by Dan Mishkin, with art and cover by Jan Duursema. *(New Format.)* $1.50

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #457
Matrix's life as Clark Kent isn't going over well in Metropolis, so Superman brings her back to Smallville . . . for all the good it does. Written by George Pérez, with art by Dan Jurgens and Dennis Janke. Cover by Jerry Ordway. $.75

ANIMAL MAN #14
Buddy finally gets home to find his house haunted . . . by Animal Man. Something strange is going on here . . . Written by Grant Morrison, with guest-artists Tom Grummett and Steve Montano. Cover by Brian Bolland. *(New Format.)* $1.50

AQUAMAN #3
Earth's waters have turned Mera into a rampaging psychotic who threatens to ruin Aquaman's attack plans. Written by Keith Giffen and Robert Loren Fleming, with art and cover by Curt Swan and Al Vey. $1.00

AQUAMAN #3

BATMAN #426
Part 1 of the 4-part "Batman: Year Three." Consumed by grief over the death of Jason Todd, Batman goes on a rampage in Gotham City, raging out of control. But in a quiet moment, he reflects on his third year of crime fighting . . . the year when he met young Dick Grayson and groomed him to become the first Robin. Written by Marv Wolfman, pencilled by Pat Broderick, and inked by John Beatty. Cover by George Pérez. $.75

BATMAN #437
Part 2 or the 4-part "Batman: Year Three." The Darknight Detective and Robin pursue Boss Zucco, the man who murdered the Boy Wonder's parents. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art by Pat Broderick and John Beatty. Cover by George Pérez. $.75

BATMAN MOVIE ADAPTATION
From the dark alleys of crime . . . to the towering heights of Gotham City's Cathedral comes the official comics adaptation of the hottest movie of the year—BATMAN. Adapted from the screenplay by writer Dennis O'Neil, with art and cover by Jerry Ordway. The BATMAN MOVIE ADAPTATION is available in both DC's Standard and Prestige Formats. $2.50 (Standard)/$4.95 (Prestige)

BLACKHAWK #6
The Blackhawks begin to realize that the C.I.A. has sent them on a mission designed to kill them. Written by Martin Pasko, with art and cover by Rick Burchett. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

CAPTAIN ATOM #31
Captain Atom begins to learn about the aliens whose mysterious metal gave him his fantastic powers. Written by Cary Bates and Greg Weisman, with art by Rafael Kayanan and Romeo Tanghal. $1.00

COPS™ #14
Someone from Vess's past has made a deal with Big Boss to have Buttons McBoom Boom test out just how bulletproof the leader of COPS really is. Written by Doug Moench and pencilled by Alan Kupperberg. $1.00

DETECTIVE COMICS #602
Part 2 of a 3-part story: The Batman fights to save a killer from the consequences of his own evil . . . but not even the Darknight Detective is a match for a six-armed demon. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Norm Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell. Cover by Breyfogle. $.75

DOC SAVAGE #11
Part 1 of the 4-part "Sunlight Rising": John Sunlight is Doc's greatest foe . . . and he's back, resurrected by Doc's own genius in the hands of the forces of evil. Written by Mike W. Barr, with art by Rod Whigham and Steve Montano. Cover by Adam Kubert. *(Deluxe Format.)* $1.75

DR. FATE #8
Linda must go into action as Dr. Fate without Eric. And amateur magician Joachim Hesse shows what he can do as well . . . with disastrous results. Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art and cover by Shawn McManus. *(New Format.)* $1.50

DR. FATE #8

THE DOOM PATROL #25
More secrets of the new Doom Patrol revealed as Josh and Dorothy Spinner tour the new HQ. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Dougie Braithwaite and Scott Hanna. *(New Format.)* $1.50

DRAGONLANCE™ #10
Part 2 of a 4-part story: On the floor of the Blood Sea, our heroes meet Sea Elves and Dragon Turtles as they are forced into the deadly games at the Arena of Istar. Written by Dan Mishkin, with art by Mike Collins, Ron Randall, and Randy Elliott. Cover by Randall. *(New Format.)* $1.50

EL DIABLO #1
He's Rafael Sandoval, member of the Dos Rios, Texas City Council. He's also El Diablo, the masked avenger of those who inhabit a world of poverty, crime, and corruption. Special 48-page first issue, written by Gerard Jones, with art and cover by Mike Parobeck and John Nyberg. *(New Format.)* $2.50

FIRESTORM #88
As Firestorm tries to learn more about his newfound fire elemental powers, the Captains of Industry try to protect their own interests by unleashing the transformed Air Wave as Maser. Written by John Ostrander, with art and cover by Tom Mandrake. $1.00

FLASH #29
Wally decides to joyride the Justice League Europe teleporter to Casablanca seeking romance and adventure. He finds plenty of both, including the guest-starring Phantom Lady. All presented by guest-writer Len Strazewski and guest artists Grant Miehm and Paul Fricke. Cover by Miehm. $1.00

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JUNE

FLASH #29

☐ **GAMMARAUDERS™ #6**
It's a totally rad time for all involved as Slash and Warlord Sassin slug it out for leadership of the Slugnoids . . . and those glitzy gals in prom dresses and Uzis, the Radical Debs, debut. Written by Peter Gillis, with art and cover by Martin King and Dave Cooper. *(New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **THE GREATEST BATMAN STORIES EVER TOLD Trade Paperback Edition**
The best-selling hardcover collection of classic tales of The Batman is back in a deluxe trade paperback edition. Featuring stories by Bob Kane, Jerry Robinson, Dick Sprang, Neal Adams, Marshall Rogers, Alex Toth, and others. This trade paperback edition features a new cover by Walter Simonson. $15.95

☐ **GREEN ARROW #21**
Part 1 of the 4-part "Blood of the Dragon": Shado's former employers, the Yakuza, kidnap her infant child to force her to kill an enemy . . . and herself, unless she and Green Arrow can save her child. Written by Mike Grell, with art by Dan Jurgens, Dick Giordano, and Frank McLaughlin. Cover by Jurgens and Giordano. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.25

☐ **GREEN ARROW ANNUAL #2**
Green Arrow and The Question must deal with the terrible reality of a utopia. Continued from THE QUESTION ANNUAL #2. Written by Dennis O'Neil, with art by Ed Hannigan and Dick Giordano. Dinah Lance faces her future in a BEHIND THE SCENES story by Sarah Byam and Dick Giordano. Plus, WHO'S WHO pages on all the major characters. Cover by Hannigan and Giordano. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $2.50

☐ **HAWK & DOVE #3**
Hawk & Dove in their final confrontation with Azure begins with Hawk being sacrificed on the altar of an ancient Aztec goddess. Written by Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art by Greg Guler and Scott Hanna. Cover by Guler and Karl Kesel. $1.00

☐ **HAWKWORLD #1**
(of a 3-book mini-series)
Welcome to Thanagar, the world of Katar Hol, a novice police officer who would one day become Hawkman. Learn the terrible secrets of his homeworld that shaped the hero of today. Written and pencilled by Timothy Truman, with inks by Alcatena. Painted cover by Truman. *(Prestige Format.)* $3.95

☐ **HAYWIRE #12**
With the White Lotus a captive of her dragon brothers, Haywire's got problems of his own as he turns back to Steve . . . in mid-air. Written by Michael Fleisher, with art by Vince Giarrano and Jose Marzan. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **HELLBLAZER #21**
What is the God of All Gods? That's the question Constantine has to answer as he discovers that there's more to the Fear Machine than political power. Written by Jamie Delano, with art by Mark Buckingham and Alfredo Alcala. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **HERO HOTLINE #5**
(of a 6-issue mini-series)
As things heat up for Mister Muscle at his murder trial, Firebug is making things hot for the rest of Hero Hotline. Written by Bob Rozakis, with art by Stephen DeStefano and Kurt Schaffenberger. Cover by DeStefano and Karl Kesel. *(New Format.)* $1.75

☐ **THE HUNTRESS #5**
On the trail of her family's killer, The Huntress heads into Little Italy where she discovers *more* than she ever wanted to know, especially about her friend and confidant. Written by Joey Cavalieri, with art and cover by Joe Staton and Bruce Patterson. $1.00

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #29**
The Batman calls upon Doctor Fate's mentor Nabu to venture inside the mind of Blue Beetle. And Fire's training session is interrupted when Big Barda's car is stolen . . . along with her mega-rod. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Ty Templeton and Joe Rubinstein. Cover by Kevin Maguire. $1.00

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #4**
The JLE finally discovers who's been trying to discredit them, and that discovery takes them to Bialya and a confrontation with Queen Bee. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Bart Sears and Pablo Marcos. Cover by Sears. $1.00

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #5**
Sapphire Stagg shows up at the JLE Embassy with Metamorpho's baby. Trouble is, he doesn't remember the details. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Bart Sears and Pablo Marcos. Cover by Sears. $1.00

☐ **L.E.G.I.O.N. '89 #7**
The bad news is that a member of the L.E.G.I.O.N. dies . . . the worse news is that a teammate did it. Written by Keith Giffen and Alan Grant, with art by Barry Kitson and Mark McKenna. Cover by Kevin Maguire. *(New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #63**
Part 4 of the 4-part "Magic Wars": Reunited, the Legionnaires make their final stand against the rampant forces of magic that imperil the 30th Century. This is the final issue of the Legion, with an all-new version of the team making its debut in two months. Written by Paul Levitz, with art by Keith Giffen and Mike DeCarlo. Cover by Steve Lightle. *(Deluxe Format.)* $1.75

☐ **MANHUNTER #16**
Outlaw finds out what it's like to be the prey of Manhunter . . . as if he wasn't being kept busy enough coping with an alien bomb. Written by John Ostrander and Kim Yale, with art and cover by Grant Miehm and Pablo Marcos. $1.00

☐ **MISTER MIRACLE #7**
Mr. Miracle's mates from the JLA, Blue Beetle and Booster Gold, stop by for a visit. Written by Len Wein based on a Keith Giffen plot, with pencils and cover by Joe Phillips, inks by Rick Magyar. $1.00

☐ **NEW GODS #6**
Eve Donner, on the verge of a nervous breakdown after her experiences on New Genesis, becomes the perfect subject for Darkseid's malevolent plans . . . except that she's inadvertently protected by the people-too-stupid-to-die. Written by Mark Evanier, with art by Paris Cullins and Bob Lewis. Cover by Cullins and Scott Hanna. *(New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **THE NEW GUARDIANS #11**
The New Guardians discover the secret of Janwillem's creations . . . a secret linked to their own destiny. Written by Cary Bates, with art by Pat Broderick and Ralph Cabrera. Cover by Broderick. *(New Format.)* $1.25

☐ **THE NEW TITANS #57**
Wildebeest is back . . . and he's causing some very familiar kinds of trouble for the Titans. Written by Marv Wolfman and George Pérez, with art by Pérez and Bob McLeod. Cover by Pérez. *(Deluxe Format.)* $1.75

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JUNE

THE NEW TITANS ANNUAL #5
The Children of the Sun are back . . . and they want revenge. And this time, they have inside knowledge of one of the Titans that they're going to use to get it. Written by Marv Wolfman and pencilled by Chris Wozniak. Plus, Who's Who pages on the Seeds, Troia, and others, and the secrets of the rebuilt Titans Tower, drawn by George Pérez. Cover by Pérez. *(Deluxe Format.)* $3.50

THE PHANTOM #5
The Phantom and Diana risk their lives as they try to extinguish the flames of racial tensions being fanned by The Order. Written by Mark Verheiden, with art and cover by Luke McDonnell. *(New Format.)* $1.50

THE PHANTOM #5

POWER OF THE ATOM #15
The life of an old friend hangs in the balance as the Atom tries to unravel the secret of Gestalt. Written by Roger Stern, with art by Graham Nolan and K.S. Wilson. Cover by Nolan. $1.00

THE QUESTION #28
With Myra on the mend, Hub City is up for grabs by differing neighborhood factions that have started taking the law into their own hands. That is, until Lady Shiva shows up . . . offering her sword for hire. Written by Dennis O'Neil, with art and cover by Denys Cowan and Malcolm Jones III. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.)* $1.75

SANDMAN #8
The Sandman meets a strange young girl with a mysterious connection to his own past. Written by Neil Gaiman, with art by Mike Dringenberg and Malcolm Jones III. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

SECRET ORIGINS #43
The secret origins of the *original* team of Hawk & Dove are revealed by writers Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art by Trevor VonEeden. Also, the story of how Nazi gold hidden deep inside the Earth sets the stage for the origin of Cave Carson, written by Bob Wayne, with art by Timothy Truman. Cover by Paris Cullins. $1.50

SKREEMER #3
(of a 6-issue mini-series)
As he schemes to eliminate the leaders of the opposing criminal gangs, Veto remembers his own ascension to power during the great gang wars. Written by Peter Milligan, with art by Brett Ewins and Steve Dillon. Cover by Ewins. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.)* $2.00

SPECTRE #28
Part 5 of the 6-part "Ghosts in the Machine": Redditch is sucking people's minds into his computer net, turning them into tortured pawns to use against the Spectre. Written by Doug Moench, with art by Tom Artis and Ralph Cabrera. Cover by Artis. *(New Format.)* $1.50

STAR TREK V MOVIE ADAPTATION
The USS *Enterprise* and her crew are commandeered by a charismatic Vulcan zealot . . . who just happens to be Spock's half-brother. He takes them and the ship into the center of the universe in search of a higher being. This 48-page adaptation of the upcoming film is written by Peter David, with art by James W. Fry and Arne Starr. Painted cover by Roger Stine. $2.00

STARMAN #13
A double date leads to double trouble for Will and Starman as the Parasite and Rampage arrive in town. Written by Roger Stern, with art by Tom Lyle and Bob Smith. Cover by Lyle. $1.00

STARMAN #13

SUICIDE SQUAD #31
In the aftermath of the Janus Directive, Amanda Waller is forced to reevaluate what she put her team through . . . even as forces begin to stir which will only complicate life for the Squad. Written by John Ostrander, with art by John K. Snyder III. Cover by Karl Kesel. $1.00

SUPERMAN #34
Skyhook's story begins in the London of the late 1800s . . . but it's in modern-day Metropolis that Superman must battle him for the lives of dozens of missing children. Written by Jerry Ordway, with art and cover by Kerry Gammill and Dennis Janke. $.75

SUPERMAN #34

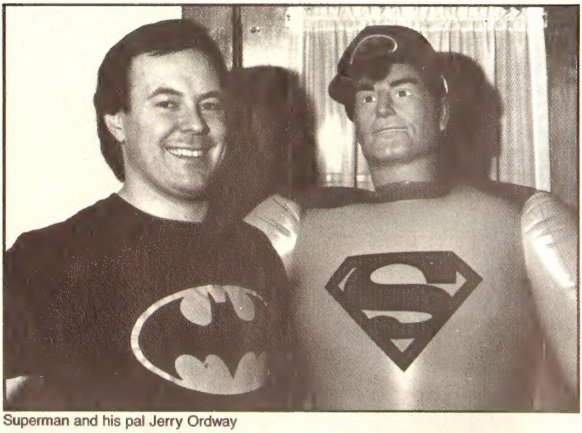
THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER #9
It's 1952 and the Soldier is "Across the Line" on a mission in North Korea for General McArthur . . . with the entire Chinese Red Army out looking for him. Written by James Owsley, with art by Phil Gascoine and Arne Starr. Cover by Gascoine. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.75

WONDER WOMAN #33
After Diana learns the secret of a strange tribe of Amazons, they just might not let her go. Written by George Pérez, with art by Chris Marrinan and Will Blyberg. Cover by Pérez. $1.00

YOUNG ALL-STARS #28
With the Young All-Stars disbanded, "Iron" Munro goes hunting for his super-powered father . . . in a Lost World. Written by Roy and Dann Thomas, with art and cover by Lou Manna and Bob Downs. *(New Format.)* $1.75

people at WORK

JERRY ORDWAY



Superman and his pal Jerry Ordway

•People in the comic book business are accustomed to seeing a lot of original artwork, as reams of the stuff pass through the offices every month. Every so often, a job will come in that stops people dead in their tracks, the pages passed from hand to hand to be admired. Jerry Ordway's art for **The Batman Movie Adaptation** is one of those jobs . . . that is, the pages anybody's been able to look at.

Comic book adaptations of movies are often kept under lock and key during their preparation to protect the twists and turns of the plot from being made public, but few films have so excited the comics community as this one. And Jerry's work on that forthcoming project is almost as eagerly anticipated as the movie itself.

Jerry is a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, born November 28, 1957. He remembers comics and drawing as being a part of his life from early on. "From the time I was old enough to figure out what the images were, I was interested in comics. We had a neighbor who had kids who were obviously comic fans. The father would bring us bags of old DCs . . . well, at the time I guess they weren't really old. They were the giants, you know, the 80-Page Giants and the reprint stuff. Without covers. I thought comics came that way. He was probably just getting them out of the house, nipping the little comic collectors in the bud.

"We read through those, my brother Joel and I. We're about two years apart, but we're very close, and we used to sit and read these . . . mostly Batman. I always really liked the Detective Comics stuff. There's something about Batman that was kind of intriguing—the weirdness, I guess.

"I was encouraged as a little kid drawing little stick figures, like a face with two arms sticking out of it. Even though the early efforts were very crude, you know how parents are. They're very encouraging. I was a pretty sedentary child and I would sit and draw. As I got a little older, it just became something that I wanted to do.

"I've really only had training on the job. I worked at an art studio that gave me a real good background, and I had taken a three-year commercial art course at Milwaukee Technical High School. I graduated from that, went to a semester of college, and then got a job at a typography studio setting headline type. From there I went to work at the art studio."

But Jerry really wanted a career in comic books. "I was rebuffed by the comics companies as a youngster. Mike Machlan, Pete Iro, and I made a trip into DC and Marvel in July of 1977. We went up to the office. Mike almost got work with Joe Orlando. Vince Colletta was DC's art director at the time, and he looked at all our work, and he just didn't see much there, I guess.

"That's when I came back to Milwaukee and turned toward getting a job in commercial art, because I thought, well, comics don't want me. But getting the job in the art studio eventually led me back to DC.

"I got the opportunity to do a coloring book of the DC super-heroes for the art studio, which had been contracted for the job by Western Publishing, in Racine, Wisconsin. That ultimately got me noticed by DC Comics, because they had to approve the art.

"About a year later, I took my art samples to the Chicago comics convention, where I heard that they were looking for talent. That was in the summer of 1980. I showed them to Joe Orlando. He was kind of burnt out at the time, having spent days looking at samples, there were just so many people there with stuff for him to look at.

"Then Paul Levitz came by, looked down at the work, and just totally floored me. He looked up and said, 'Oh, Jerry Ordway. We've been trying to get hold of you.' He took my number and from that point on, I went back and did my time doing stuff for WEIRD WAR TALES and things like that, and then, ultimately, when it was offered, ALL-STAR SQUADRON on a full-time basis."

By 1981, Jerry was getting enough work in comics to enable him to quit his job at the art studio. "I did ALL-STAR SQUADRON for two years, and then I went on to INFINITY INC., which Mike Machlan, Roy Thomas, and I co-created. Did that for about a year and then jumped ship to Marvel, where I did the FANTASTIC FOUR, about eight issues, inking over John Byrne's stuff, and then I jumped back to DC to finish up on CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS."

Eventually, the opportunity arose for Jerry to work on Superman, a character he feels he was able to approach from a fresh perspective. "The TV show was my main connection to Superman, and the movie. Especially the first movie, which I've probably seen more times than any other motion picture. And I have a lot of fond memories of George Reeves and the whole cast of the TV show from when I was a little kid, before I was reading comics.

"What I liked was the more humanistic approach. I prefer dealing with 'Here's a problem for Clark Kent, here's a problem for Superman, on a human level.' It's easier for me to relate to Jimmy Olsen, Clark Kent, or whoever than it is for me to relate to Superman, because I really never could imagine being able to lift up a car or anything. I always basically gravitated toward the less powerful characters."

The Batman is more in line with a hero he can understand. "I enjoy drawing Batman, but, again, in Batman's case, it's really more of a childhood thing. I think there's more of a thrill because I was a Batman fanatic for a while back in the 1960s. I was the perfect age to enjoy the Batman TV show. Being nine or so, I was too young to be offended by the campiness, but old enough to be into the gimmicks."

When asked how he got to work on the movie adaptation, he said, "I had gone to the U.K. Comic Art show in London last fall and got a chance to go to Pinewood Studios and stroll around the "Batman" movie sets and see the completed Batmobile. Filming was a week away, most of the sets and props and stuff were completed and that really got me going. That was probably the thing that got me interested in the project, just strolling around the sets and seeing all this great art that you're not supposed to notice in films.

"After that I expressed my interest to Dick Giordano. I wanted to do a high-profile project in addition to the Superman work—plus I felt I could capture the faces of the actors, the likenesses. In ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN, the characters of Catherine Grant and Inspector Henderson are based on real people—Jane Beatty (John Beatty's sister) and Jim Schmidt, a private investigator I know from Milwaukee. For THE BATMAN MOVIE ADAPTATION, I had to do an audition sheet for Jack Nicholson and Michael Keaton. It was a good warm-up before I even started the first page. It was a thrill when they approved my drawings. It's been a real interesting and challenging project."

And there'll be no rest for the weary any time soon. "After THE BATMAN MOVIE ADAPTATION, I'll be going back to the Superman books. I'll be writing a few issues for Kerry Gammill to pencil, and then I'll take over the pencilling and writing on SUPERMAN. I've got a storyline worked out involving the Guardian and the Newsboy Legion. So Superman's by no means out of my system."

HAWKMAN

From the archives of the DC Comics Library, we bring you the cover of BRAVE AND THE BOLD #34 (1961), the origin of Hawkman.